

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INCREASING AWARENESS OF KIDNEY DISEASE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress recognizes National Minority Health Month, I join my colleagues, Congressman WATT and Congressman JEFFERSON to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease on the African American community.

Both kidney failure and its precursor, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), disproportionately affect African Americans. Although only about 13 percent of the U.S. population, African Americans make up 32 percent of the patients treated for kidney failure. The American Heart Association reports that African Americans have a 4.2 times greater rate of kidney failure than white Americans. The Congressional Black Caucus is especially concerned about the growing prevalence of kidney disease because of this disproportionate impact.

Mr. Speaker, the leading causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, both of which also disproportionately affect African Americans. Diabetes occurs at twice the rate in the African American community than it does with Caucasians. High blood pressure affects 1 out of every 3 African American adults. According to the American Heart Association, the prevalence of hypertension in the African American community is among the highest in the world.

Mr. Speaker, African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than Caucasians. African Americans make up 12 percent of the population but account for 30 percent of people with kidney failure. Diabetes and high blood pressure account for about 70 percent of kidney failure in African Americans. A recent National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) survey of African Americans found that only 17 percent named kidney disease as a consequence of diabetes, and only 8 percent named it as a consequence of high blood pressure. African American males ages 22–44 are 20 times more likely to develop kidney failure due to high blood pressure than Caucasian males in the same age group. Forty-five percent of African American men with kidney failure received late referrals to nephrologists. In some cases people were not aware they had a problem until they needed dialysis.

We must continue our strong support of the efforts of the kidney care community to meet the needs of these patients. We must fund education programs to raise awareness of the disease within the African American community. We must ensure that Medicare treats those who care for patients with kidney disease the same way it treats all other groups

of providers—this means enacting an annual update mechanism to recognize inflation and other increases related to caring for these patients. Without equitable reimbursement, it will be difficult for the community to continue to meet the needs of the ever-growing patient population.

Supporting educational programs and high quality care not only improves quality of life for patients, but also reduces the cost to the overburdened Medicare program. Preventing kidney failure and improving care will result in substantial savings for the government. In addition, if treated early, individuals with kidney disease will experience an improved quality of life and be able to maintain more daily life activities, including keeping their jobs.

My colleagues and I applaud the efforts to increase awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. We must act now to help Americans learn more about this deadly disease and how to prevent its development and progression to kidney failure.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAY STOWERS' SERVICE TO MEDPAC

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a physician who has served my home State of Oklahoma and the Nation with distinction over the past 6 years. On April 20, 2006, Ray E. Stowers, D.O. will participate in his final meeting as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC).

For the past 6 years, Dr. Stowers represented the interest of Medicare beneficiaries, physicians, and hospitals as a member of this distinguished Federal body. Most notably, he represented the interest of rural America. During his years of service, MedPAC made recommendations on several difficult health policy issues, including advice on how to establish and implement a prescription drug benefit within the Medicare program.

Dr. Stowers spent over 25 years in a private, solo family practice clinic in northwest Oklahoma. At various times throughout his career, he was the only physician in the entire county. He provided care for the young and old alike. Many evenings were spent visiting the homes of those too ill to travel to his office.

Following his years in practice, Dr. Stowers accepted a position as the Director of Rural Health at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OSU-COM) in Tulsa, OK. This position allowed him to share his experiences with medical students and residents, while designing training programs to prepare them for practice in rural and underserved areas. The Rural Health Center has

emerged as one of the premier rural training programs in the country and continues to provide a valuable service to the citizens of Oklahoma.

Throughout his career, he has served the citizens of Oklahoma and the Nation well. Before serving on MedPAC, he was a member of the Physician Payment Review Commission (PPRC) prior to the formation of MedPAC in 1997. Additionally, Dr. Stowers served 7 years on the American Medical Association's Relative Value Update Committee (RUC). He truly is one of the Nation's foremost experts on physician payment policies.

Many will never understand or appreciate the time and energy Dr. Stowers dedicated to his service on MedPAC. However, as a Member of Congress representing constituents impacted by the policies developed by MedPAC, I appreciate the professional and caring manner in which he went about his duties. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my fellow Oklahomans I would like to thank Dr. Stowers for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT TROY JENKINS

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and the memory of Army Sergeant Troy Jenkins of Repton, Alabama in my congressional district. He lost his life in defense of freedom on April 24, 2003.

Sgt. Jenkins loved his country, serving in both the Marine Corps and the Army. He studied Arabic and trained to be a paratrooper. His service took him to Afghanistan and Iraq. As a member of the 101st Airborne Division, he was standing patrol in Baghdad when a cluster bomb exploded, taking his life.

Sgt. Jenkins was known at home and among his comrades for his bravery. He demonstrated it when he put his own life in harm's way to protect others from the cluster bomb. He was remembered by his fellow soldiers as a friend and a hero; all of America can be proud of his service and his dedication to duty.

I would also like to commend Sgt. Jenkins' mother, Connie Gibson, for her efforts to honor the bravery and service of her son and all others who have lost their lives defending our great country. She has reached out to local veterans and their families to bring our community together to pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for America.

On the third anniversary of the loss of Sgt. Jenkins, I send my condolences out to his family, including his wife, Amanda, and sons, Tristan and Brandon. The thoughts and prayers of America are with you.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States, the communist regime in Cuba was underway, Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" topped the charts, Don Larson pitched a perfect game as the Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series, and the cost of a first class stamp was .03 cents.

Amidst these historical events taking place, the Village of North Palm Beach was created. Much has changed in those fifty years in and around the village with new development, highways and a large population spurt to reach its present size, however, one thing that has not changed is the "small town" nature of the Village of North Palm Beach and its friendly residents.

The village has been blessed over the years with outstanding local elected officials and a strong participation by its residents and civic leaders. Mr. Speaker, over the years I have proudly represented this community, I have witnessed time and time again where the community has pulled together to support a common cause. The spirit of togetherness and pride is ubiquitous in the Village of North Palm Beach.

From the days that John D. MacArthur sold his property, which included a golf course and a country club, to create North Palm Beach, the first of Florida's master planned communities, the Village has always set the mark.

Now with 13,000 residents, its well managed growth has been a model for future planned communities throughout the state and country.

Environmentally, the Village is also ahead of the curve, when in 1989 the State of Florida purchased 437 acres of property from the Village along the Atlantic Ocean to preserve a natural coastal barrier island. Preserved forever from being developed, it provides a home for nesting sea turtles, birds, indigenous plant and wildlife, reefs and a birthing and natural nursery for Florida Manatees. It is suitably named, MacArthur State Beach Park.

In recent years, the Town has also enhanced our local and State governments by being the hometown and formative training ground of Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus and State Senator Jeff Atwater.

Well done North Palm Beach in your first fifty years. You truly are "The Best Place to Live Under the Sun."

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROYALTY-IN-KIND FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this week I have introduced the Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act. This bill is intended to make it possible for the Depart-

ment of Interior to implement a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was intended to provide a new way to assist low-income people to heat or cool their homes.

For several years before 2005, the Department of Interior had authority to develop "royalty-in-kind" arrangements under which companies developing federal oil could meet their required royalty payments by providing oil instead of cash. The Energy Policy Act expanded this provision to apply to natural-gas developers as well, and also added new authority for Interior to grant a preference to low-income consumers when disposing of natural gas it obtained under such an arrangement.

While this Energy Policy Act provision does not specifically reference the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), its implementation could benefit that program.

LIHEAP is intended to help low-income Americans pay for their heating and cooling costs. However, at current funding levels this critically important program serves less than 15 percent of those who qualify for it. Implementing the Energy Policy Act provision to grant a preference to low-income consumers would supplement LIHEAP funding and expand the amount of energy assistance available to the poor.

Last September, I joined my colleagues from Colorado in writing a letter to Interior Secretary Gail Norton asking her to consider beginning implementation of the new provision through a pilot program in Colorado. In the letter we emphasized the importance of helping this country's most vulnerable citizens, who are increasingly hard hit by rising energy costs.

In a reply to my office, the Interior Department responded that the Interior Department's lawyers had reviewed the Energy Policy Act provision and had concluded that as it now stands it could not be implemented because the current law "does not provide the Department with the authority or discretion to receive less than fair market value for the royalty gas or oil."

My bill is intended to correct the legal deficiencies in the provision as enacted to make it possible for the Interior Department to implement the program. In developing the legislation, my staff has reviewed the Interior Department's legal opinion and has consulted with the Interior Department's lawyers and with other legal experts. Based on that review, I think enactment of my bill will resolve the legal problems cited by the Interior Department and will enable the program to go forward.

Spring may be upon us, but hot summer temperatures and another winter are just months away. I believe the Energy Policy Act provision to help low-income consumers is an innovative tool that must be allowed to work. The Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act would make this possible. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support energy assistance for this nation's most vulnerable residents.

Here is a brief outline of the bill:

Section One—provides a short title ("Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act of 2006").

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the importance of LIHEAP and the intent of the relevant provisions of law regarding payment of royalties-in-kind and the conclusion of the Interior Department that the provision of

the 2005 Energy Policy Act intended to allow use of royalties-in-kind to benefit low-income consumers cannot be implemented. This section also states the bill's purpose, which is to amend that part of the Energy Policy Act in order to make it possible for it to be implemented in order to assist low-income people to meet their energy needs.

Section Three—amends the relevant provision (Section 342(j)) of the Energy Policy Act by—

(1) adding explicit authority for the Interior Department to sell royalty-in-kind oil or gas for as little as half its fair market value in implementing that part of the Energy Policy Act under an agreement that the purchaser will be required to provide an appropriate amount of resources to a Federal low-income energy assistance program;

(2) clarifying that such a sale at a discounted price will be deemed to comply with the Anti-deficiency Act; and

(3) authorizing the Interior Department to issue rules and enter into agreements that are considered appropriate in order to implement that part of the Energy Policy Act.

These changes are specifically designed to correct the legal deficiencies that the Interior Department has determined currently make it impossible for it to implement this part of the Energy Policy Act.

HONORING BILL STAGGS FOR VALIANT SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) Staggs, Captain, United States Army Air Force for his valiant service as a fighter pilot during World War II.

Upon entering the service in September 1942, Mr. Staggs, born in Portland, Tennessee, was sent to Santa Anna, California for ground school. He soloed in April 1943, in a Ryan PT-22 at King City, California. He flew the PT-13A at Gardner, California, and the AT-6 and P-40 at Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Staggs flew the P-47 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana before departing for England.

In the fall of 1944, Bill was assigned to fly the P-51 Mustang with the 55th Fighter Group, 38th Squadron of the 8th Air Force based at Wormingford, England. The P-51's mission was long-range escort of American and British bombers over Germany. Bill flew 56 missions totaling 279 combat hours from late 1944 to the end of the war.

During World War II, the three squadrons of the 55th Fighter Group destroyed over 580 enemy aircraft and Bill was officially credited with destroying three. Of particular note is the downing of one Focke-Wulf 190 for which he was not credited but resulted in Bill being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. While flying bomber escort over Germany in the spring of 1945, Bill came to the aid of a fellow P-51 pilot who was in a losing battle with a German plane. He skillfully maneuvered his plane behind the Focke-Wulf and shot the plane off his fellow pilot's tail. Bill later learned the pilot in the other P-51 was an 8th Air

Force General. For his heroic act in saving the General's life, Bill was awarded the medal for extraordinary achievement in June 1945, by Brigadier General M.C. Woodley, Commanding General of the 8th Air Force's 66th Fighter Wing. During his entire service in England, Bill was awarded the Air Medal and six Oak Leaf Clusters. The Air Medal is awarded for an act of meritorious service in aerial combat. An Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded as an addition to the Air Medal and each Cluster represents an additional act of meritorious service.

I commend Captain Staggs and the many men and women of the "greatest generation" for stepping up when the people of the world needed them the most. One only wonders how the world would be today if it wasn't for those brave souls.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFF STEINBERG
ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE THOMAS
JEFFERSON AWARD FOR HIS
WORK ON SOJOURNS TO THE
PAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jeff Steinberg, who was recently awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for creating Sojourns to the Past. Mr. Steinberg is a resident of Millbrae, California, which is in my Congressional District.

Mr. Steinberg has lived and worked around the Bay Area his entire life. He began his community involvement as a history teacher at Capuchino High School in San Bruno, California and has worked to make our community a better place for over a decade as an educator. In 1999, Jeff created the Sojourns to the Past as an educational tool to teach high school students about American history in the South and to promote tolerance and human rights. Since its inception, over 3000 students have participated.

Sojourns to the Past promotes a living history of the Civil Rights movement. The curriculum contains books, documentaries, audio recordings, and on-site experiences. Veterans of the movement, like my friend and colleague Congressman JOHN LEWIS, meet with the students to teach lessons of tolerance, non-violence and personal courage. The students visit eight cities in the South, starting with Atlanta and ending in Memphis. They tour landmarks of the Civil Rights era and can see firsthand the destructive effects of racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, Sojourns to the Past has inspired thousands of students. When they return from their trip the students have a better understanding of American history and the struggle for civil rights. I have received hundreds of letters from students who share their experience with me and I know that these students return from the trip with a unique appreciation for the struggle faced by the pioneers of the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, Sojourns to the Past is a truly stimulating program and Jeff Steinberg is an extraordinary person who has worked tirelessly for his students and our community. Students who participate in this program be-

come more engaged civically and are more likely to vote. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this wonderful recognition.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN D. WEST

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and someone who has served the people of Newark and my state of New Jersey nearly his entire life—Mr. Calvin D. West.

Calvin has served our state since he returned home from his time in the military more than fifty years ago. Elected to the Newark City Council in 1966, Calvin was the first African-American at-large-councilman in the city of Newark's history. His leadership and advocacy on behalf of the people of Newark and our state has been remarkable, and his more than fifty years of public service serves as an example for us all.

A true champion of the civil rights movement, Calvin helped Newark through the 1967 civil disobediences. He has continued to play a crucial role in the rebuilding of Newark and in bringing together the diverse communities that make the city so great. He has advised Presidents going back to John F. Kennedy, a long succession of New Jersey governors, including his service as Executive Director of the Governor's North Jersey Office for the past five years. Throughout his time in public service he has been a dedicated and tireless advocate for children and those in need.

On a personal level, Calvin's generosity and kindness has touched the lives of so many in Newark and across New Jersey. His work with the Boys & Girls Club of Newark, the Newark Preschools Council and other educational institutions and nonprofit organizations in the community has given countless young people the opportunity to be mentored by someone who understands their struggles.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Calvin my friend and I wish him the very best as we celebrate his fifty years of public service. The people of Newark and our state can only hope that we can continue to benefit from his service, his expertise and his good will for many years to come.

527 REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, after six years of debate, Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, better known as the McCain-Feingold bill.

Supporters of the bill claimed it would rectify the perception that there is too much money in politics, and that tightening reporting requirements would create full transparency in donor information.

But while their intentions were noble, 4 years later politics is more awash in money

than ever before, only thanks to McCain-Feingold, we now know less about where it's coming from.

According to the bill's proponents, the crown jewel of McCain-Feingold was a ban on large, unregulated contributions to political parties, known as "soft money."

In theory, this prohibition was supposed to prevent billionaires from donating enormous and largely unreported sums of cash to influence federal elections. In reality, it spawned a new, unaccountable funnel for millionaire money—527s.

Although 527s can run political ads, mobilize voters, donate to Federal campaigns through an affiliated PAC, and perform virtually every other function of a political party, 527s—unlike candidate campaigns, political parties, and political action committees—are not regulated by the Federal Elections Commission. Nor are 527s accountable to voters.

527s have carried their message into the homes of millions of Americans without having to adhere to the numerous regulations governing political parties and campaigns.

The bill before us today—the 527 Reform Act—will close this loophole in McCain-Feingold, preventing 527s from having an unfair financial advantage over political parties and individual candidates.

At bottom, this is simply a matter of fairness: everyone who seeks to influence a federal election should be playing by the same rules.

Mr. Speaker, when we passed the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, the other side said millionaires were playing too big of a role in federal elections.

If they truly believe that, I challenge them to support this legislation and restore fairness to campaign finance laws.

CONGRATULATING KELLY NICOLE
BRYANT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize and congratulate Miss Kelly Nicole Bryant for being selected to represent the State of North Carolina in the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival. Kelly has strong ties to North Carolina's Fifth District, as she is the granddaughter of Juanita Bryant and the late Frank Bryant of Boonville.

Kelly has already represented our state at the festival's traditional Japanese lantern lighting ceremony. She has attended several embassy parties and has toured the White House and Kennedy Center.

Tonight, I am looking forward to meeting Kelly at the National Cherry Blossom Congressional Reception. I wish her well for the remainder of her stay in Washington. On Saturday she will represent North Carolina in the National Cherry Blossom Parade.

Kelly is a junior at East Carolina University, where she is majoring in Political Science and minoring in history. She is on the Dean's List and is a Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Kelly has made a positive difference in her community by volunteering for the Exploris Museum, Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life and the Race for the Cure.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Miss Kelly Bryant for being an outstanding representative for the State of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO
AMEND THE INDIAN GAMING ACT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce this proposed legislation to require States to implement commonsense planning policy as it relates to the Class III Indian gaming within State borders.

Too often, Indian tribes are at the mercy of the shifting political winds of State government. Negotiating a Tribal-State compact for the right to engage in Class III gaming on their tribal lands is a process complicated by elections, changing attitudes towards the tribe, as well as an understanding that tribal gaming can be a lucrative business for the State. This process is frequently understood as "let's make a deal" time.

This proposed legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to withhold approval of a Tribal-State compact until the State first develops a long-term plan to administer Class III gaming within its State boundaries. It employs a process to incorporate opinion by both the local communities and tribes, and represents a process often recognized by State and Federal Government as necessary but missing from the present application process for Class III gaming. This legislation will not prevent tribes from engaging in the application process or affect already approved Tribal-State compacts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MORE
WATER AND MORE ENERGY ACT
OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this week I have introduced the "More Water and More Energy Act of 2006."

My bill deals with the issue of "produced water," the saline water generated in the production of oil. For every barrel of oil produced, approximately 10 barrels of saline water is generated. This country generates over 5 billion gallons of produced water per day.

While sometimes this water can be and is used for agriculture or other purposes, most often it has been handled as a waste and re-injected. But as we expand our development of fossil energy resources to meet our increasing demand for energy, we are also increasing the volume of water produced in the development process. And given the increasing demand for fresh water supplies in many areas of the country—especially in the West—it makes sense to consider how this produced water could supplement our limited fresh water resources.

I'm glad that this issue is beginning to engage so many around the country as they re-

alize the potential benefits of produced water. Just this week, the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute is hosting a "Produced Water Workshop" to discuss "Energy & Water—How Can We Get Both for the Price of One?"

In my opinion, few topics could be more timely or important, not only for Colorado but for our country.

That's why I'm introducing the More Water and More Energy Act—to facilitate the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes, including municipal and industrial uses. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior (through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S.G.S.) to carry out a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the extent to which produced water can be used for such purposes.

In addition, it would authorize federal grants to assist in the development of facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the extent to which produce water can be recovered and made suitable for use for such purposes.

Developing beneficial uses for produced water could reduce the costs of oil and gas development, while also easing demand for water—especially in the West—by alleviating drought conditions and providing water for agriculture, industry, and other uses. Energy and water are two of our most important resources—so it makes sense to pursue ways to produce more of both. I believe my bill is a step in this direction.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions:

Section One—provides a short title ("More Water and Energy Act of 2006"), sets forth findings, and states the bill's purpose, "to facilitate the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes and to demonstrate ways to accomplish that result."

Section Two—provides definitions of key terms used in the legislation.

Section Three—authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, to conduct a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes and the legislative, administrative, and other actions that could reduce or eliminate these obstacles. The study is to be done in consultation with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate Governors and local officials, and the Interior Department will be required to seek the advice of experts and comments and suggestions from the public. Results of the study are to be reported to CONGRESS within a year after enactment of the legislation.

Section Four—authorizes and directs (subject to the availability of appropriated funds) the Interior Department to award grants to assist in developing facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the use of produced water for irrigation, municipal or industrial uses, or for other purposes. No more than one such project is to be in a State of the Upper Basin of the Colorado River (i.e. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming), no more than one is to be in either Arizona or Nevada, and no more than one is to be in California. Grants are to be for a maximum of \$1 million, and can pay for no more than half the cost of any

project. Grants cannot be used for operation or maintenance of a project.

Section Five—authorizes appropriations to implement the legislation, including up to \$5 million for grants authorized by section 4.

HONORING MILLARD V. OAKLEY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Millard V. Oakley of Livingston, Tennessee for his many contributions to the State of Tennessee and the people of the Upper Cumberland.

Millard has been a good and loyal friend to many people. A lifelong resident of Overton County, Tennessee, Oakley graduated from Livingston Academy High School, attended Tennessee Technological University, and graduated from Cumberland University School of Law, LL.B. in 1951.

Shortly upon receiving his degree, Oakley engaged in the general practice of law and is still a practicing attorney.

Mr. Oakley was elected to four terms to the Tennessee Legislature, served one term to the Constitutional Convention, and was elected to four terms as County Attorney of Overton County.

His expertise in law took him to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served from 1971–1973 as General Counsel for the House Select Committee on Small Business. Moving back to Tennessee, Millard served as State Insurance Commissioner from 1975–1979.

Today, Oakley serves on the Board of Directors, First National Bank of Tennessee-Livingston/Cookeville/Crossville/Sparta. He also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Thomas Nelson Publishers, the world's largest Bible publishing company.

Throughout his life, Millard has been a leader in business specializing in property and economic development in the Upper Cumberland. Through his financial institutions he has helped several entrepreneurs start and expand their business. A tireless advocate for education, Millard has been a leader in recruiting a satellite campus of Volunteer State Community College to Livingston and has been instrumental in the development of the science, technology, engineering, and math facility at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. His support of these facilities makes him one of the premiere advocates for the children of the Upper Cumberland area.

Millard's compassion and sincere concern for the people of the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee is seldom surpassed by anyone.

He is married to J. Annette Oakley. They have one daughter, Melissa Oakley Smith, and one granddaughter, Kendall Vaughn Smith, also of Livingston, Tennessee.

It is fitting and appropriate that Millard V. Oakley be recognized for his charitable deeds and his abiding friendship to all of those who know him and future generations that we honor him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING SAN MATEO COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of San Mateo County, California, a county which I proudly represent, along with my good friend Anna Eshoo in the United States House of Representatives.

Much of the history of San Mateo County can be derived from its unique founding. The county was not one of the original counties created when California was granted Statehood in 1850, but instead came about as a political compromise. Originally part of San Francisco County, a group of progressively minded citizens, fed up with corruption in San Francisco, decided that it would be easier to clean up one government rather than two and proposed merging the San Francisco County and City governments. However, those opposed to this plan were also politically strong and at the end the day a compromise was agreed upon—that the San Francisco governments would be consolidated but it would become two counties.

The newly constituted San Mateo County was created from the most rural areas of San Francisco County and had a population of about 2500 people. While the progressives of San Francisco anticipated seizing control of this more remote area to establish a clean ethical government, their efforts were defeated by rampant ballot box stuffing and election fraud in 1856. In an interesting turn of event, two of the Judges who certified the election, John Johnson and Charles Clark, were themselves elected as two of the new county's first supervisors. This group of criminals were run out of town shortly after being elected when a vigilante mob of 800 San Franciscans rose up to take revenge on James Casey for his shooting of newspaper editor James King of William. After hanging Casey for shooting the popular editor, the mob turned south and his cronies who had infiltrated the County government fled San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, although this is the 150th anniversary of San Mateo County, the human story of the land dates back much further and was home to numerous and varied cultures. Recent archeology indicates that man lived on the Peninsula as far back as 6500 years ago. When the first European settlers from Spain came in 1769, about 2000 native Californians called the Peninsula home. These Spanish conquistadors quickly colonized the area bringing their Catholic faith with them.

Before the Gold Rush of 1848, a number of Americans and other foreigners inhabited the southern hills of San Mateo working in a fledgling logging industry or at the port that was quickly expanding in Redwood City. Despite the fact that these industries continued to grow with the discovery of Gold in northern California, the County remained a lightly populated and mostly rural community for the remainder of the 19th Century.

It was this rural nature of San Mateo County that made it a place where certain activities could take place that were not permissible in San Francisco. Although San Francisco has

always possessed a reputation as an "open city," but for many years it was common knowledge that if you were unable to get away with something in San Francisco all you had to do was cross over the county line. Examples of such activities included gambling, prostitution and dueling. Although outlawed everywhere in California, dueling continued to exist in San Mateo County and Daly City was the location of a duel that resulted in the death of United States Senator David Broderick. By the turn of the century prize fighting and horse racing, now illegal in San Francisco, were also commonly occurring in San Mateo County and the historic Bay Meadows Race Track was opened in 1934. During the era of Prohibition the prolific bootlegging operations run out of the County prompted one gangster to declare San Mateo the most corrupt county in California.

Mr. Speaker, despite the examples of lawlessness, San Mateo County remained a sleepy suburb of bustling San Francisco until America entered World War II. Like so many other towns and areas of the country, the need for components for the war machine revved up San Mateo County's economic engine as factories sprang up to produce necessary electronic parts. Coupled with the growth of firms such as EIMAC, Varian, Dalmo Victor and Ampex, was the expansion of hotels, warehouses and other supporting business. Perhaps the best example of the increasing stature of San Mateo County can be seen in the fact that the airport in South San Francisco, once dubbed a "mud hole" was handling one-tenth of all air traffic in the United States by 1946.

Industrial growth brought an increase in population and by the end of World War II the rural nature of San Mateo County passed into oblivion. This once quiet community is now home to some of the largest companies in the world, and a magnet for the computer software and biotechnological industry. Mr. Speaker, even though San Mateo County is now a major population and business hub, it continues to remain committed to the values of open space that were present when the then rural County was founded 150 years ago. I am proud to have contributed to the County's commitment to environmental conservation by expanding the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include extraordinary landscapes such as Rancho Corral de Tierra, Mori Point and Sweeney Ridge. By designating these beautiful tracts of land as part of our national park and protecting them from development, we are able to maintain a connection to the rural heritage of San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, San Mateo County's history during the past 150 years has certainly been colorful and storied and serves as an important bridge to a limitless and bright future. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this significant milestone, the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of San Mateo County in California.

HONORING THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY "HAWKS" FOR AN OUTSTANDING NCAA EFFORT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Monmouth University "Hawks" this year in becoming the first men's basketball team in the college's history to win a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament game.

This accomplishment also gives me the opportunity to highlight Monmouth University—an educational institution that has experienced dramatic growth in recent years, enticing students from across the country and around the world to take advantage of its innovative academic programs.

The Hawk's trip to the NCAA was launched on March 8 when they defeated Fairleigh Dickinson and won the college's fourth Northeast Conference Tournament and an invitation to the NCAA Tournament. The Hawk's then were assigned to play their televised, 2006 NCAA Opening Round play-in game against Hampton, which had won the Mid-East Athletic Conference tournament championship.

As recounted by Ed Occhipinti, sports editor of the school paper, "A textbook display of motion offense, backdoor cuts, accurate long-distance shooting and a stifling match-up zone defense led to a dominant 71-49 win over Hampton. The country now knew what Hawks fans have known for years: their brand of basketball is effective, even if it lacks high-flying, show-time appeal and flair."

A few days later, the Hawks, as the No. 16 seed, faced a monumental challenge from Villanova, the Number 1 seed in the NCAA tournament's Minneapolis region. Even though the Hawks were able to cut Villanova's lead to seven points in the last four minutes of the game, it was not enough to overcome Villanova's legendary powerhouse team. While the Hawks lost by a score of 58-45, they certainly achieved new levels of national recognition and respect for their performance.

CBS announcer Jim Nantz, as quoted in the school paper "Outlook," stated: "The effort of Monmouth is what makes March Madness what it is. (Coach) Dave Calloway did a tremendous job, and for the kids themselves, there was a dream. Today was a special day for Monmouth, teams like that are what give the tournament its charm."

The players and coaching staff, under the direction of Dave Calloway, as well as the entire university community, are to be heartily congratulated for this great performance.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CENTRAL OHIOANS TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONDA IN 2006

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate some of the men and women who live in my Congressional district

and are dedicated employees of Honda North America, whose contributions to Honda's products helped the company receive four of the most prestigious awards given to automakers. Earlier this year, the Honda Civic lineup and Honda Ridgeline were selected as the 2006 Motor Trend Car and Truck of the Year. This is the first time that a single brand has won both awards from Motor Trend in the same year.

Significantly, the Civic Coupe, Civic Si and Ridgeline vehicles were researched, designed and developed at Honda R&D of the Americas with 10 facilities located across the United States. The major development facility is located in Raymond, Ohio in my 15th Congressional district. This facility employs approximately 1,000 U.S. associates and handles a variety of engineering, design, vehicle fabrication and testing responsibilities.

In addition, at the 2006 Detroit International Auto Show, the Civic lineup and Ridgeline were awarded the 2006 "North American Car and Truck of the Year". The winners of these awards are selected by 49 full-time automotive journalists from the United States and Canada. Winners are chosen based on a multitude of factors including innovation, design, safety, handling, driver satisfaction and value for the money. Once again, this is the first time a single brand has won both awards in the same year.

These achievements reflect a very significant maturation of Honda's operations in America and the meaning of American workers, and specifically Ohioans, to Honda itself. Today, nearly 30 percent of the Honda and Acura vehicles sold in the U.S. in 2005 were researched, designed and developed in America. Honda currently employs approximately 15,000 associates in Ohio and its investment includes five manufacturing plants that produce automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles, engines and transmissions. Honda utilizes more than 160 parts suppliers from the "Buckeye State" to produce these vehicles and their components—further signifying the relationship between Honda and the Ohio worker.

I want to offer my congratulations to the associates of Honda in Ohio and especially those in Raymond, Ohio at Honda R&D of the Americas on receipt of these four awards. I appreciate the House allowing me to bring this matter to its attention.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

This Act authorizes the President to offer further assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan to protect civilians and humanitarian operations. It also provides the President the authority to impose sanctions on those individuals who have committed acts of genocide and calls on the international community to contribute more aid to end this horrific crisis.

The United States and our allies must do whatever we can to help end the atrocities

that have been occurring in the Darfur region of the Sudan over the last four years. During that time over 400,000 southern Sudanese Christians have been massacred and over 1.6 million people have been permanently displaced from their homes.

To this day, the Sudanese government in the north is continuing to attempt to "ethnically cleanse" this area of its Christian population. These serious violations of international human rights and law—not to mention, plain human decency—must be stopped.

The rest of the world must put pressure on the individuals and institutions involved to put an immediate end to these crimes without regard to their economic or political interests in the area. Human life must be the guiding factor.

I applaud the efforts of my colleagues, CHRIS SMITH and DONALD PAYNE, both of whom are from my home state of New Jersey. I also thank Chairman HYDE for his tireless efforts on this legislation as well and ask that all of my colleagues support H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF BASIC HIGH SCHOOL'S MARINE CORPS JROTC PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a special group of high school students in Henderson, Nevada, the members of Basic High School's Marine Corps JROTC.

Basic's JROTC unit was activated in 1977 and is one of over 200 plus units sponsored by the United States Marine Corps. Basic's MCJROTC has been designed as a "Naval Honor School" 14 times and has received state and national recognition and honors. The Senior Marine Instructor and Marine Instructors are retired Marines with over 80 years of combined military service and 30 years at Basic High School.

The mission of the MCJROTC is to develop young leaders and responsible citizens with respect for constituted authority, to help individuals strengthen character and form habits of self discipline, and to learn the importance of national security in a democratic society. Students that participate in the MCJROTC program at Basic learn self-discipline, self confidence, personal responsibility and build their character.

Basic's MCJROTC students participated in the Western United States National Drill Meet on April 1, 2006 and were deemed the overall winner for the West Coast. Other awards earned included: 1st place in Armed Inspection; 2nd place in Unarmed Inspection; 1st place in 4 Person Unarmed; 5th place for 4 Person Unarmed; 3rd place in Unarmed Inspection; 2nd place for Color Guard Regulation; 1st place for 4 Person Armed; 1st place in Unarmed Exhibition; 2nd place in Color Guard Regulation; 4th place for 4 Person Armed; 2nd place for Armed Inspection; 3rd place for Unarmed Exhibition; 4th place for Color Guard Inspection; Outstanding Unarmed Commander Cadet.

Basic's MCJROTC students have won this prestigious championship twice in the last 4

years. Their commitment to this important program and devotion to excellence has helped them achieve these high honors, and I am proud to recognize them today for their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I salute the MCJROTC students at Basic High School.

IN HONOR OF JOHNNY RYE, SR.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Johnny Rye, Sr., of Poinsett County, Arkansas, a great friend, and someone who has made countless contributions to his community.

Johnny was born into a sharecropping family on September 2, 1924, in Smithville, Mississippi but moved to Arkansas just 8 years later. After finishing school, Johnny started his own grocery business in the Black Oak Community. He has operated that grocery for more than 50 years, making it the oldest grocery business in all of Poinsett County.

In addition to being a great businessman, Johnny is an active member of his community. He is known for his generosity to many local charities, and has been a member of the Marked Tree Church of God since 1946. He has also taken the time to get involved in civic activities, serving as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention and helping Bill Clinton win Poinsett County in his 1982 race for Governor.

Johnny Rye and his wife, Maxine Branch Rye, have two sons, Johnny Rye, Jr., the Assessor of Poinsett County, and Randy Rye who works for the family business. They also have one granddaughter, Robin Rye who is studying to be a nursing major at the University of Central Arkansas.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing Johnny Rye, Sr. for his significant contributions to eastern Arkansas. He is a great friend, a great businessman, and a great American.

CARL ELLIOTT AND LISTER HILL: TWO INDISPENSABLE GREAT ANGELS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 7, 2006, the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies and the University Libraries will conduct a Library Services Act 50th Anniversary Program honoring Congressman Carl Elliott and Senator Lister Hill, two great legislators who were the first great federal advocates for the Library Services and the National Defense Education Acts. As the only Librarian who has ever served in the Congress I was honored to be invited to speak at this commemoration; however, the scheduled vote on the budget prevented me from attending. The following are a portion of

the remarks I prepared for that landmark occasion:

In his 2001 inaugural address President Bush left us with one profound image: the specter of an "Angel in the Whirlwind" guiding the fate of our nation. Democracy in America has survived and expanded despite the numerous whirlwinds and storms. At several critical periods our ship of state could have been blown off course and been wrecked on the rocks. Always in the past, the churning American political process has produced the leadership capable of conquering crises and opening new vistas.

Representative Carl Elliott and Senator Lister Hill were two leaders who opened new vistas. In the story of the making of America we can find many angels emerging from the whirlwind. Many of our greatest angels are unsung, unknown beyond a small circle. But the abundance of angels, ordinary and everywhere, has created the most fantastic nation on the face of the earth. Not from royal bloodlines or from pampered privileged classes but from the cradles in the tenements, from log cabins and shotgun shacks. Every citizen, all Americans are potential angels called by the voice of Thomas Jefferson to come forward and add your contribution to the ongoing miracle of America. Because we loudly assume that all persons are created equal we automatically break the chains of doubt and set our imaginations and spirits soaring to achieve at higher and higher levels, and to create new institutions.

Lister Hill refused to let his regional origins interfere with his national visions. Carl Elliott did not allow a lack of wealth and high-class status to limit his spirit and ambition. Both men focused intensely and accomplished missions that place them among the legions of great American angels.

Just as school systems for the masses never existed before they emerged in America, so it was with public libraries. Yes, from the time of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome there were libraries, but always they were the closely guarded property of the rich and available only to the elite. From the embryo implanted by Benjamin Franklin to the urban facilities provided by the generosity of Andrew Carnegie to the legislation of enduring federal support for libraries the American angels were in motion.

To achieve the imprimatur of federal sponsorship was a life sustaining development for modern public libraries. Only a fellow legislator can imagine what Representative Elliott had to overcome to realize his dream. Politicians seldom dwell on systems and long-term goals that benefit citizens beyond their political district. Elliott was ridiculed as a man who was tinkering with the impossible. He was strongly advised to do what every other lawmaker was attempting. To get reelected and be celebrated back home, he was told to get himself an appropriation to build a bridge. Get something concrete to show off that could be dedicated with a ribbon cutting and marching bands. If Elliott had accepted that practical but mundane proposition, oh what a devastating gap there would have been in the progress of library service in America. Carl had to be the pitcher in the House of Representatives and Lister had to be the catcher in the Senate in order for the game of public library expansion to go forward.

Across the nation we can now boast of magnificent public libraries and library sys-

tems. The DNA of Elliott and Hill goes marching on. Other great library nurturing angels like Eileen Cooke of the ALA Washington Office boldly forged ahead in their spirit and played a major role in the legislation and administration of the E-Rate providing widespread utilization of computers and the Internet in libraries. A whole new dimension exciting the young and the old has been added to the information and education mission of public libraries.

As a philosophical descendant of Elliott and Hill; and a more immediate child of the LSCA I arrived in Congress determined to raise the profile of libraries of all kinds to a level where they could never be forgotten and neglected again. Certainly I have been frustrated that the higher Federal appropriations have not been gained which I think libraries deserve in order to relieve some of the funding burden on State and local governments. But basically I will be leaving the Congress after 24 years contented that most of my concerns have been fulfilled. There are now many legislative advocates for libraries and they exist in both parties, Republican and Democratic. In politics that pinnacle of bipartisan support is the ultimate goal. The fight is no longer for recognition and survival as a national priority. The fight is for growth and the expansion which will provide opportunities for libraries to meet the new emerging challenges of education located away from campuses and outside of classrooms.

Our libraries are indispensable institutions. President Clinton has described America as an indispensable nation. Carl Elliott and Lister Hill were indispensable great angels for this indispensable nation. Out of the limelight, with no headlines to encourage them they remained steadfast in their unglamorous mission. As early as 1919, the American Library Association was seeking federal support for libraries. But not until 1936 was there a small breakthrough which established the Library Services Division within the Office of Education. Through side doors such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the WPA more federal support was garnered. But not until 1956 was the great breakthrough achieved; the Library Services Act was passed and later expanded in 1960. In the history of the House and the Senate there are few records of such longevity and perseverance in the unselfish pursuit of uplifting legislation.

The rock-solid basic principle pioneered by Carl Elliott and Lister Hill is the proposition that wealth, financial well being, should not be the deciding factor in determining who has access to information and knowledge. Elliott and Hill understood that the growth and development of the State and region economy were inextricably interwoven with the intellectual growth and development of ordinary residents of the State and region. While public libraries were only a small part of the overall education effort they were the institutions with the greatest cost-benefits ratio. Huge opportunities were provided for large numbers of persons on the roads to upward mobility at the lowest possible costs. Oh, yes the investment in libraries and education pays great dividends.

Long before the military leaders could comprehend it, Elliott and Hill understood that an educated populace was our nation's greatest asset for national security. From what was often labeled as an abstract dream of universal literacy reflected in their concern for rural libraries these two giant angels of American progress leaped to the hard-nosed prep-

arations for a space age national defense system. The massive feats of science and engineering needed to develop the laser, satellites, spacecraft and rockets were made possible as a result of the initiatives of the National Defense Education Act. There is a clear connection between the vision and labor of Elliott and Hill and this nation's landing of a man on the moon.

America, not by accident, is the richest, most powerful nation that the world has ever known. In comparison the great Roman Empire was merely a village. America is great because the unsung heroes, the invisible angels are always at work carrying out the details that make our democracy a success.

There will be in America no aristocracy of the well informed. Know-how shall never be a rare or scarce commodity. The government shall encourage all persons to pursue their fullest development. Beyond universal access to information, libraries will provide assistance with knowledge creation and utilization. In the appreciation and the application of wisdom librarians will continue to play a vital role.

The vision and foresight of Carl Elliott and Lister Hill have been validated by time. Their concerns have become more relevant as we plunge further into the age of information. In America information will never become the weapon of elite dictatorships. Information, knowledge and the records of wisdom must be permanently supplied to the citizens. In many forms this library mission must carry on to maintain the land of the free, home of the brave, and the nation of the most thoroughly informed who are capable of that continuing oversight and vigilance necessary to guarantee that our great democracy will long endure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Mr. Hall in introducing the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006. This bill establishes a National Integrated Drought Information System—or NIDIS—within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that will provide early warnings, forecasts, and information about drought conditions to mitigate the impacts of drought.

The western part of our country, including my own state of Colorado, has experienced severe drought conditions in recent years, with adverse consequences that have included severe wildfires that have devastated many homes and businesses.

Droughts are a recurring part of climatic cycles, but that does not make them benign. And because unlike hurricanes or other weather events they develop slowly and their effects are felt over longer periods, there is a danger that efforts to mitigate or reduce the damage will not begin in time.

The direct impacts of drought include reduced crop yields and forest productivity, increased fire hazards, lower water levels, and damage to wildlife habitats. Droughts are costly to our economy as they reduce the incomes

of farmers and increase the prices of foods and agricultural materials such as timber. Drought adversely impacts our environment and wildlife habitats, taking away from our public lands and recreational opportunities, which have become an essential component of the way of life for many western communities.

But while the Department of Homeland Security, is working to prepare for natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes, the federal government is not doing enough to mitigate and reduce the effects of drought.

Currently, NOAA works with several agencies to produce drought forecasts and monitoring. However, a report by the Western Governors' Association found that much of the current drought forecasting information is overly technical and not in a standard format. Many users also are not aware of resources available to reduce the impacts of drought.

The bill that Mr. Hall and I are introducing today responds to those problems by expanding NOAA's efforts in drought monitoring and forecasting, improving the dissemination of data to ensure more informed and effective decisions are made about drought.

Specifically, the bill establishes an early warning system called NIDIS. NIDIS will integrate information from key indicators of drought to provide timely assessments. NIDIS will be used to disseminate a drought forecast on a regular basis to decision makers on the federal, state, local, and tribal levels, as well as to the private and public sectors.

Real-time data is often the most helpful in making decisions about drought; however, data is rarely available to decisions makers until after the fact. Thus, NIDIS will provide real-time data where possible for regional and local drought conditions.

Our bill also calls for the coordination and integration of federal research to support NIDIS, thus ensuring that we continue to understand droughts and their impacts. Lastly, our bill directs NOAA to consult and coordinate with other federal agencies in the development of NIDIS to ensure that all appropriate communities benefit from the system.

I believe that NIDIS will ensure that we are able to proactively reduce the effects of drought and allow decision makers to take advantage of all opportunities to reduce as many impacts as possible. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the creation of NIDIS and better monitoring and forecasting of drought.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when you think of the leaders of the future—what qualities come to mind? Civic activism? Community awareness? Personal leadership? Academic excellence? It is a privilege to recognize the members of the 2005–2006 Congressional Youth Advisory Council because they embody these qualities and more.

For the last 2 years, the members of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council have

represented the young people of the Third District well by working as ambassadors of the future. Several times a year the members of the Youth Council would share a valuable youth perspective on the current issues before Congress. This year 42 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference to Congress.

For the first time, this year there was a philanthropy element to the Youth Council. For the community service project, the members of the Youth Council reached out to veterans and encouraged them to share their stories. Called the "Preserving History Project," each member had to interview a veteran. Then the student had to submit a lengthy paper detailing the veteran's service and sharing what the student learned from that experience. The students submitted a summary of their work. Today I'm proud to submit the briefs provided so the hard and valuable work of the Youth Council may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Someday, each member will be able to share with children and grandchildren—"In high school I served my community and my work will always be recognized in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD."

A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for your time, effort and sacrifice to help make the Congressional Youth Advisory Council a success. You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

My name is Lauren Huber and I had the great opportunity to interview my grandfather, Second Lieutenant Robert W. Jensen. My grandfather was a bombardier pilot in World War II. He has accomplished a lot in his lifetime and has survived being a prisoner of war, and living on barely anything. He has received many medals for his service in World War II, including: the Oakleaf Medal Cluster, Air Medal, and a Purple Heart. It was a pleasure and an honor to interview my grandfather and listen to what he had to say about his experience as a bombardier in WWII. I have learned a great deal about my grandfather I did not know, such as his strength. I have learned that conditions were horrible during the war and that many innocent people were killed because of WWII. I now have even deeper respect for not only my grandfather, but for all the veterans of every war in the world. I have a deeper gratitude for the soldiers who are currently fighting in Iraq and honor them with all my heart. I am very lucky to have known my grandfather long enough for him to tell his war stories for me, and I will be sure his legacy will live on in me and in the stories that I will tell my children and grandchildren of Robert W. Jensen.—Lauren Huber

Carl Eugene Beck, my grandfather, is an American veteran who relied on determination and dedication as he proudly served in the Navy during the Korean War. Carl finished the Navy as an aviation mechanic third class. Mr. Beck's experience in the Navy greatly allowed him to mature because, as he states, this was his first time to be independent. The Navy also matured Mr. Beck through discipline and hard work, all that he is thankful to have acquired. Finally, in the work field, the Navy provided Carl with a strong work ethic and an education that Carl states allowed him to keep his job. Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Mr. Beck was also able to have financial advantages not

only in his education, but also later in life, such as when he bought his first house. Overall, the Navy taught Carl to be self-sufficient and gave him motivation to work hard in college and in life. Although Carl never actually fought, the very fact that he voluntarily joined the military, to me, is something that anyone should be proud of. Even though he came from a poor family, Carl's dedication and determination ultimately led to his successes in the Navy, as well as later in life.—Patrick Dyer

George William Wallis served during World War II in the 96th, 69th, and 3rd Infantry divisions. The Army gave him a battlefield commission in which he became a Second Lieutenant. Wallis was stationed primarily in Germany where his division gradually moved from town to town across Germany until it was the first to reach the Russians. George Wallis received an Air Medal, a European Theatre Ribbon, and two battle stars for his service. In addition to these tangibles, Wallis gained an increased level of maturity and a greater sense of teamwork and responsibility as a direct result of being in our Armed Forces.

Oftentimes the media, as well as many others, portray the military in a negative light. Because of this, I developed a somewhat faulty image of what life in the military was like. As opposed to hearing horror stories about cruel sergeants, rampant diseases, and lack of food, Wallis told me generally positive accounts of tough but kind sergeants, adequate food, and pretty decent conditions. My discussions with George Wallis helped to change my somewhat myopic view of military life, and it allowed me to gain a greater sense of what it was like to live let alone fight during a war that engulfed the entirety of the world.—Alyssa DeLorenz

I interviewed Private First Class Leo Serian. Leo Serian was drafted from New York into the Army in 1943 as part of the last company of soldiers to be shipped across to Europe where they advanced farther than any other company in WWII and ultimately liberated the concentration camp, Hersbruck. Although not a Christian during the war, Serian now looks back and believes the Lord held him in His hands during his whole enlistment. This includes many miracles like near misses by machine guns, to safe crossings of minefields, and even his placement in his company. For Serian, his experience in World War II was truly unforgettable, and he now resides in Dallas, Texas. Being devoted to Christ, Serian blended his faith with his war experiences in the poems he wrote, which are included in the essay.—Austin Lutz

Tony Brigham attended Sunset High School in South Oak Cliff and graduated in 1969. In 1971, at the young age of 20, he sought a future in the military. Before he got drafted for the Vietnam War, he decided to join the Air Force. He was stationed on the island of Okinawa for the majority of his time in the United States Air Force, and he experienced unforgettable moments while over there. He played a leading role in Operation BabyLift, as he coordinated the special flights coming into Hawaii. He is proud of his role helping infants and newborn children escape the perils of Vietnam. As it happened, many of the soldiers formed anti-Vietnam War opinions. Tony Brigham was one of those soldiers who enlisted with one opinion, which soon changed during his time of service. Seven years later, Tony retired from the Air Force. He decided to attend Eastlandsburg St. Pennsylvania College, Steven F. Austin University, and the University of Texas at Dallas, all on the G.I. Bill. He received two undergraduate degrees, a B.S. in Environmental Science and in Forestry, and one graduate degree in Science

Education. He applies all this knowledge in the classroom where he has been teaching for the past 22 years of his life.—Michael McCleary

I interviewed Chief Warrant Officer Jarvis W. Coburn, U.S. Army (Ret.). He served his country from 1965 through 1969. During his time in uniform, he served in the 176th Aviation Company of I Corps in the Vietnam War. He flew both lift and attack helicopters and received numerous awards and citations, including two Purple Hearts, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, thirty-nine air medals, one Presidential Unit Citation, and one Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Several times he was in life and death situations, and each time he managed to find a way through. He experienced the thrill of fighting alongside the United States Marine Corps and the agony of losing fellow soldiers in horrific battle. He returned to the United States, became a flight instructor and taught the next generation of Army pilots. His work in the private sector with Ross Perot's EDS led to the heroic rescue of two captured American prisoners as recorded in Ken Follett's *On Wings of Eagles*.

After interviewing Mr. Coburn, I gained a newfound respect, not only for the man himself, but also for all the soldiers that have served our country. Listening to the stories he shared with me reinforced how important the Armed Forces are to our Nation.—J. Andrew Clark

For the Preserving History: Veteran's Interview Project, I had the opportunity to interview a veteran of World War II. My grandfather, Michael Pessalano, was the veteran who shared his personal experiences with me. This man accomplished a lot in my eyes. He was a Codman in the United States Navy during World War II. He was awarded three ribbons: the American European Theater and Victory medal, and the American and European medals from serving overseas. Although he didn't see much combat, hearing his stories were still really interesting. Just by serving in the U.S. armed service I believe that you have been able to accomplish a lot. Having the determination, strength, risks taken, and dedication to one's country will vastly benefit anyone who serves. After having the opportunity to interview and hear the personal story of one's experience, I was shown the truth. Many people today, including myself, are clueless on what a soldier's life is really like. From this interview experience, I have learned to have more pride in my country, respect the people who are fighting for me, and we need to preserve the history so others can see the reality to how and who got our country where it is today.—Ashlea Banick

For this project I interviewed Captain Rick Burges. Captain Burges served in the Marine Corps of the United States of America from 1980 to 1984. He was positioned in artillery at Camp Le Jeune in North Carolina. Although he was never a part of combat or enlisted during a time of declared war, Captain Burges established himself as a Marine Corps hero by selflessly serving and climbing up the ranks for four years. This was an opportunity to open my mind up to the rigors of war and military training. Captain Burges was able to explain how military training is very long, hard, and tedious, but it also provides the greatest sense of satisfaction. But the greatest lesson is that I must always fulfill my dreams, no matter how hard or tiresome it may be, because only then can I live life completely satisfied.—Hansini Sharma

I interviewed my grandfather, Bentley Byrd Hinman. He served in the United States Army for two years as a Master Sergeant between the years of 1950 and 1952. During that time the United States was involved in the Korean War. My grandfather, however, was

far removed from any field of combat. He spent the majority of his service in Germany serving as a superintendent for a collecting station, the place where the wounded were brought after battle. He was not exactly the definition of a war hero; in fact, he never even fought a battle. That fact, however, does nothing to demean the sacrifice he made. When he was drafted for the military in 1950, he was not anxious or excited to go. It was simply something that must be done, so he went. He traveled to Germany for two years performing a thankless job, but he fulfilled his duty and that is all we can ask. I discovered what many men serving our country feel like. Oftentimes, men are not required to enter battle but are simply called. That calling is duty and the men who are strong enough to hear its call and answer are the true heroes.—Jennifer Smart

I interviewed Captain Andrew George Schneider, formerly of the United States Navy Supply Corps. Mr. Schneider joined the Navy voluntarily during the Korean War. He served first on the USS *Elderado* as a seaman recruit. Later, he transferred to a Navy destroyer, the USS *Watts*, where he was a Lieutenant (junior grade). Only in his early twenties, he was a Supply Officer and head of the supply department. After several years of active duty, Andrew joined the reserves where he remained on alert status for 22 years. During that time he worked with classified missile plans and as a government auditor. In 1979, he retired after 29 years of service. I learned a lot about Mr. Schneider through this project. I never knew what he had done in the Navy, and I found his story particularly interesting because Andrew Schneider is my grandfather. He is a true hero!—Kristin Schneider

Mr. Johnson is dedicated to God, his country and his family. He has lived the story of a POW war hero that had determination to survive. He made his way back to Texas and his family. During the time of Mr. Johnson's captivity, Mrs. Johnson never believed that her husband was dead. Two years after he had been shot down she received evidence to prove that he was still alive. She has said that her main goal was to keep continuity in the children's lives, while her husband was away. Many supporters and friends offered her prayers of hope and wore Mr. Johnson's POW bracelet in his honor. The bracelet told the prisoner of wars' name and rank and date captured. My family was among those who did so, and they all remember the day Mrs. Johnson received the message of her husband being shot down and missing in action and then when she had heard that he was coming home.

Sam Johnson is a decorated hero. He has earned 2 Silver Hearts, 2 Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Valor, the Meritorious Service Medal, and 9 other medals, including 2 Purple Hearts, as written in his book. He now serves his country as a United States Congressman. I am very thankful to have heard his story because it made my understanding of past war history even greater. Although I was not alive at the time, I can empathize and only imagine how horrible Mr. Johnson was treated as a captive prisoner. I gain strength in my Faith through the telling of his life story, and I admire all of his accomplishments.—Amanda Lipscomb

As part of the "Preserving History Project" I completed for Congressman Sam Johnson and the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Bud Taylor who served in World War II as a Navy seaman. His exploits in the Pacific theater included the attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombardment of the Aleutian Island chain, and minesweeping at Bikini Atoll and around Japan. Upon being

transferred to the Atlantic theater, he was assigned to a convoy escort destroyer and participated in D-Day at Normandy. Mr. Taylor joined the Navy in 1940 as a sailor, rose to Seaman's 2nd Class, Seaman's 1st Class, and eventually his final rank of Gunner's Mate 3rd Class. As a result of this interview with Mr. Taylor, I saw how some of the men in the U.S. Armed Forces in Pearl Harbor fought against the odds to protect our country and the freedoms we enjoy in the U.S. I was confronted with how men gave their lives and Herculean efforts to protect America. My interview with Mr. Taylor opened my eyes to the privilege of serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; that in the time of need, we must all be ready to serve.—Michael Scott

Private First Class, George C. Powell was a member of the field artillery unit of the 66th Black Panther Division of the United States Army during World War II. Powell was born on November 6, 1924 in McKinney, Texas and was drafted by the U.S. military by the time he was eighteen. Upon completion of his training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Powell was sent to the European Theater of Operations, where his unit was engaged in the campaign on Northern France, where he fought until the end of the war in 1945. As part of the Baker 2 firing battery of the 66th field artillery unit, Powell was involved in several successes and achievements, namely the sinking of a German submarine. As a veteran of World War II Powell was able to serve his country and the United States of America, which is indeed his biggest accomplishment of all.

From this interview, I have gained so much more respect for the people who serve this country, as they truly understand the value of freedom. I have also come to realize the importance and the gift of living in a country where my rights are protected, and some day I hope to pass this on to others to make them realize the values of such a nation as the United States of America.—Morgan Bailey

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my colleagues on the Committee on International Relations for their work on House Resolution 703, which recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. I strongly support this resolution, which serves as an important reminder of the work yet to be done to ensure a better future for people living in parts of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, and other areas, who have been affected by the disaster.

As the resolution makes clear, the United States must continue its work with other countries and international organizations to provide assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. At the same time, as the resolution points out, it is also imperative that we support research into the public health consequences of the disaster so that the international community might benefit from the findings of such research.

It is in this spirit that I would like to recognize the Chernobyl Research and Service

Project, an initiative underway by a coalition including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Ukrainian government, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and RTI International. By studying the effects of human exposure to radiation, this project has a number of critical objectives. In addition to protecting the health and welfare of workers involved in the Chernobyl clean-up effort, the Chernobyl Research and Service Project aims to provide information that will lead to the development of more sensitive tests to detect and measure radiation exposure and its effects in the human population, as well as the development of more powerful treatment for victims of radiation exposure, among other things.

Today, as we remember the Chernobyl disaster, it is my sincere hope that programs such as the Chernobyl Research and Service Project continue in an effort not only to improve the lives of those affected by the catastrophic event that took place 20 years ago this month, but also to ensure that we are better prepared in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this significant resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKFORCE HOUSING ACT OF 2006

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Workforce Housing Act of 2006.

Finding a moderately priced home used to be a concern solely for those with low incomes. Today, as the median price for a home in some parts of the United States is over \$400,000, it has become an issue for all workers. This is especially true when only about 18 percent of the working population has enough income to purchase such a home. Other workers simply do not have the down payment needed to buy a home.

When large numbers of Americans are priced out of the housing market, it affects more than just a working family's ability to purchase a home. Communities that fail to provide affordable housing leave employers straining to find employees. The price to attract prospective workers ultimately makes essential jobs and services more difficult and more expensive for everyone.

Workers who cannot find affordable housing in or around places of employment are pressured to move further away. They endure longer commutes, use more gasoline, increase the levels of greenhouse gases, and spend more of their hard earned money on transportation. The financial impact is especially hard on low-income families who can spend 40 percent of their incomes on transportation alone.

In other cases, people are forced to seek less expensive homes elsewhere. Many of the housing alternatives they have to choose from are often built from older materials, emit more pollution, and require up to 50 percent more energy. Faulty ventilation and energy hungry appliances also increase the costs to heat, cool, and power a home. Rising energy costs required Americans to spend 24 percent more for energy in 2005 than in the previous year.

Such expenditures quickly deplete any savings that working families hope to use when trying to buy a home.

Left unchecked, the shortage of affordable housing, combined with higher energy prices and increased transportation demands paralyzes employment, holds back economic growth, and leads to inflation. The Workforce Housing Act successfully addresses the challenges faced by America's current housing crisis. This bill provides badly needed assistance to help individuals and families purchase their first home and to encourage developers to build affordable workforce housing.

For those looking to purchase a home, the Workforce Housing Act creates two forms of assistance that can be used for the down payment, service charges, appraisal, and other acquisition costs to purchase a single-family home or condominium.

First, the bill creates a tax-exempt mortgage down payment account to be used for purchasing a home. This account works much like an Individual Savings Account, but can be used regardless of age and allows contributions of up to \$10,000. Taxpayers that earn income up to 125 percent of the area median income will receive a tax credit equal to the amount of their annual contributions. The maximum credit is \$2,500 for either single or married-filing-joint taxpayers. Those making below 80 percent of AMI can also receive an additional \$500 credit to start the account.

Once the home is purchased, it is also possible to use any remaining funds for the future repair or replacement of items such as roofs, water heaters, or major appliances. This provision helps to ensure families can pay for these types of expenses without jeopardizing their mortgage payments.

Those who purchase homes using assistance from the Workforce Housing Act must use the home as their primary residence. To preserve the supply of homes created under this act, ownership of these homes can only be transferred to those with incomes that meet the stated affordability requirements.

Second, the Workforce Housing Act provides potential homebuyers with finance counseling and up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance. Local communities have the discretion under the bill to give teachers, first responders, certain service workers, the elderly, and low-income families priority for this part of the program.

For builders, incentives are available for the construction of affordable workforce homes. Developers are allowed base incentives in the form of expedited building permits and density allowances that are above current limits when at least 25 percent of the units are priced affordably. Affordability is based on homes with a sale price that does not exceed the median purchase price for a specific area.

Additional incentives are provided in the bill for affordable workforce homes that are built near mass transit lines, with energy efficient technologies and appliances, and using active and/or passive solar technology. These incentives can be used individually or in any combination not to exceed 15 percent of the base incentive value. Local jurisdictions will determine how to utilize these incentives based on the needs of their communities.

The Workforce Housing Act is necessary to ensure there is an adequate supply of affordable housing for the people who need it most. It also provides reasonable alternatives that

reduce some of the negative effects of increased energy demands. These are factors that threaten our economy, our ability to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and the viability of our cities and towns.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO SAINT HYACINTH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Saint Hyacinth Roman Catholic Church, in Detroit, MI on its centennial anniversary. Since 1907, Saint Hyacinth has served as a place of worship and gathering point for the Polish community in Detroit.

Saint Hyacinth was established in 1907 by a small group of Polish immigrants. At the beginning of the 20th century, this new parish served the large and growing Polish immigrant community in Detroit. During World War I, the congregation came together in order to provide solidarity for their brothers and sisters in Poland, as well as to contribute to the overall war effort. With a growing population Saint Hyacinth built a new church in 1924. This beautiful Byzantine-Romanesque church building towered over all other local buildings, serving as a deep source of pride for the Polish community.

World War II brought another opportunity for Saint Hyacinth to serve its country, community, and loved ones in Poland. With its strong connection to Poland, there was no doubt that Saint Hyacinth and many of its parishioners would play an active role in the American war effort. Their bravery and sacrifice was honored with an honor roll installed in the church vestibule.

The post-War years brought change to the surrounding community, but Saint Hyacinth remained steadfast in its dedication to serving the community. Following WWII, then Bishop Monsinger Woznicki appealed to the Church's many Polish parishioners to retain their family names, instead of changing them, as had become the custom. He also called on his parish not to flee to the suburbs, but stay in the surrounding neighborhood.

Saint Hyacinth was honored with its listing in the State of Michigan's Historical Site Registry on September 21, 1988. In January 2001, Saint Hyacinth was honored by the City of Detroit and its 300th Anniversary Committee, with a Heritage Award. It also received a granite paver, inscribed in both English and Polish, on the Riverfront Promenade. This serves as a testament to the great contributions this parish has provided to the city of Detroit and its people.

Mr. Speaker, for one hundred years Saint Hyacinth has served as the heart of Detroit's Polish community. Innumerable parishioners have passed through its doors through the years and the lessons they have learned helped shape their values and beliefs. Saint Hyacinth has stood as an example of all the hard work, determination, sacrifice and love that the surrounding community provides. For generations, the parish of Saint Hyacinth has

turned a beautiful building into something much more, the heart of a community. I want to congratulate the congregation of Saint Hyacinth; the good works they have done serve as an example of all that a community can and should be.

TRIBUTE TO ELBERT GARCIA, RECIPIENT OF THE LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S TRAILBLAZER AWARD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elbert Garcia, an extraordinary gentleman to whom I was first introduced when he was an American Political Science Association fellow in my congressional office, and who is now a media and policy analyst currently employed at my New York District Congressional office.

I commend the Latino Alumni Association of Columbia University on their decision to bestow their first annual Trailblazer Award on a group of exceptional individuals that included Elbert Garcia.

I was very pleased to find that this unique and very first annual Trailblazer award was presented April 1st during a celebration of the diversity and achievements of Columbia's Latino alumni appropriately called "El Regreso." The Columbia University alumni honorees consist of Marcel Agueros, Rafael Collazo, Jennifer Duran, Michael Maldonado, Vivian Santiago, and last but certainly not least, Elbert Garcia. The group was cited because "their dedication, vision, and representation of a wider movement were instrumental to the creation of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race."

In 1995, this group of Latin American students at Columbia were frustrated that the initiatives to bring the history of ethnic studies to their campus continued to result in failure. They were determined to draw attention to their plight by staging a non-violent hunger strike. The strike ended in the arrest of 22 students and the resulting media coverage of the arrest finally propelled Columbia and its lack of ethnic studies into the national spotlight. This publicity served as a wake-up call to the powers that be and ultimately led to change which resulted in the creation of Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. That Elbert was a leader of a group who had the strategic vision, self-discipline, determination and persistence to succeed is not a surprise to me because these are qualities which Elbert exhibits in his professional and personal life.

I know Elbert to be a dedicated family man with great conviction.

A Washington Heights-born freelance writer, Elbert has written about politics, music and culture for such publications as *The Source*, *Urbanlatino Magazine*, *The New York Post* and the *Manhattan Times*. The 31-year old son of Dominican immigrants has also worked as Web producer at MSNBC, the *New York Times*, and Philadelphia-based Latino news Web site, LATNN.com.

Elbert earned a B.A. in Urban Studies with a specialization in Political Science while

being an active student leader at Columbia University. In addition to helping to establish the school's Latino Studies program and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, he served as one of founders of Columbia University's undergraduate Dominican organization, *El Grupo Quisqueyano* and managing editor of the multicultural magazine *Roots & Culture*.

Prior to entering the field of journalism, Garcia worked several years as alumni counselor and supervisor at the Prep for Prep program, a New York City leadership development organization that works with students of color from fifth grade through college. He was also one of the early organizers of the New York International Latino Film Festival.

Elbert spent a year working on Capitol Hill as a 2002-2003 American Political Science Association Congressional (APSA) Fellow, the oldest and most prestigious Capitol Hill fellowship program. Elbert rejoined my New York staff on a part-time basis in January, 2006. A product of the Ethical Cultural Fieldston School and the community's gifted and talented magnet school, Mott Hall, Elbert currently resides in the Upper Manhattan neighborhood of Inwood with his wife, Grissel.

Elbert's background in media relations and journalism has proven to be an invaluable asset as he assists me in communicating and implementing the role of government in the lives of the constituents of the 15th congressional District. Elbert is a non-assuming, focused and savvy analyst who genuinely cares about people. He is dedicated to ensuring that the needs of our constituency are met. I am particularly proud of the great strides Elbert Garcia has made not only at Columbia University but also in his service to the residents of the 15th District of New York City.

I salute and congratulate Elbert Garcia along with the five other honored Columbia alumni for the fortitude and bravery displayed in 1995 that brought about positive change that continues to benefit Columbia University to this day. I also salute Elbert for his continued work for the public in his chosen field.

At a time of sharp difference between us on the question of immigration policy, we all should keep in mind these words of Elbert Garcia. To quote Elbert, "A nation steeped in ethnic studies would not be in such a hurry to punish its immigrants."

TESTIMONY OF STEVE GRANDSTAFF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituent Steve Grandstaff is shop chairman of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 651, which represents hourly workers at Delphi East in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For the record I would like to read an excerpt of the electronic testimony that Steve wrote for the Education and the Workforce Committee e-hearing on the impact of the Delphi bankruptcy filing:

I am the Shop Chairperson of UAW Local 651 in Flint, servicing Delphi Flint East and representing 2,800 hard working people. Early on in this whole saga I had a realization what the whole issue boils down to.

I refer to it as the promise; the promise was part of the deal. The deal was that you came to work and did your job for 30 years and at the end of that time you could have the opportunity to go on your way with a somewhat comfortable pension to see you through your later years.

The workers' end of the promise was that they worked the off shifts for the first decade of employment. This meant working the hot days in the summer and the cold ones in the winter. That in itself meant that you were at work when your family and your friends were working normal hours and enjoying life.

The promise meant that you worked in the grimy, dangerous conditions. You did boring, monotonous jobs. You suffered the labeling by society because you worked in a factory.

You would work the extra hours so that you could get the nice things that life offered. The things that seemed to come easier to other people but in your case you had to do a little extra to get them. . . .

Over the years many of us had the opportunity to make a decision, should I stay or should I move on to something else. Many, many people stayed on because of the promise.

They made decisions not to go to a new career because they were many years into the equation of which the promise weighed oh so heavily.

The promise was always out there.

The company always reminded anyone that would listen about how they were funding our pensions and used that as a bargaining chip when our wages or benefits were on the table.

It was always figured in as a benefit cost even though now some wonder if the company ever really intended to fulfill the promise.

Now here we are near the end of our careers, not as young as we used to be, many of us broken. When so many of us are so close to being able to cash in on the promise, the company is attempting to take it away from us. . . .

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has failed to protect American workers while focusing on protecting the privileged few.

It is time for these workers' stories to be heard and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share one of these stories.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL AND SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK PROMOTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal and Small Business Telework Promotion Act" to assist our Nation's small businesses in establishing successful telework programs for their employees and to secure energy saving opportunities, like teleworking for our Nation's Federal employees.

Across America, numerous employers are responding to the needs of their employees and establishing telework programs. In 2000, there were an estimated 16.5 million teleworkers. By the end of 2004, there will be an estimated 30 million teleworkers, representing an increase of almost 100 percent.

Unfortunately, the majority of growth in new teleworkers comes from organizations employing over 1,500 people, while just a few years

ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of modern technology and establishing successful telework programs, small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. By establishing successful telework programs, small business owners would be able to retain these valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. This also gives employees more time to spend with their families and reduces stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation seeks to conserve the energy consumption of the Federal workforce and to extend the benefits of a successful telework program to our Nation's small businesses.

Specifically, each agency shall take such actions as are necessary to reduce the level of fuel consumed by vehicles of employees of the agency. Due to the needs to reduce our dependence on imported oil, the bill directs all Federal agencies to find ways to reduce energy consumption by 10 percent in the year following the bill's passage. Agencies can achieve this reduction through telework, carpooling, bicycling and walking to work, fuel-efficient trip planning, public transportation use, and limiting travel.

Further the bill establishes a pilot program in the Small Business Administration (SBA) to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in our bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled American veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

The legislation is also limited in cost and scope. It establishes the pilot program in a maximum of five SBA regions and caps the total cost to five million dollars over two years. It also restricts the SBA to activities specifically proscribed in the legislation: Developing educational materials; conducting outreach to small business; and acquiring equipment for demonstration purposes. Finally, it requires the SBA to prepare and submit a report to Congress evaluating the pilot program.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. The bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality and demonstrating the willingness of the Federal Government to expand their own telework policies.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions—

Section One—provides a short title, namely "Federal and Small Business Telework Promotion Act."

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the potential benefits of increasing the extent to which employees have the option of teleworking.

Section Three—amends the National Energy Conservation Policy Act by adding a new subsection requiring Federal agencies to act so far as possible to reduce the amount of fuel used by its employees by at least 10 percent during the year after enactment. Military use of fuel would not be affected. An agency could seek to achieve this reduction through increased telework opportunities; more carpooling; more people bicycling or walking to work; fuel-efficient trip planning; greater use of public transportation; or by limiting use of vehicles for business travel.

Section Four—directs the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program to raise awareness of telework among small businesses and to encourage them to offer telework options to their employees. This program is to include special outreach to businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities, including disabled veterans. Priority for locating the pilot program will be given to regions where Federal agencies and small businesses have demonstrated a strong commitment to telework. The pilot program will terminate after 2 years. This section also authorizes appropriation of \$5 million for implementation by SBA.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM A. BECKER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Major General (Retired) William A. Becker, a distinguished veteran of World War II and Vietnam.

A Kaufman County native, William Becker was born on his family homestead in 1919. He graduated from Kaufman High School in 1936. He later attended Texas A&M College, where served as cadet corps commander during his senior year. Upon graduation in 1941, he was given a diploma, a commission as 2nd Lieutenant of field artillery, and orders to report within eight days to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Maj. Gen. Becker was sent to fight in the Southwest Pacific Theater during WWII, and in four years, he advanced from the rank of 2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel.

Maj. Gen. Becker also served in Vietnam. Over his 30-year career he had a variety of other commands and assignments. His last active duty assignment was to the Pentagon with the Office of the Secretary of the Army, as Chief of Legislative Liaison, working with the United States Congress from 1968–1971.

During his years of service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal twice with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Upon retirement from the Army, Gen. Becker returned to his home community with his

wife, Fran, and their four children. In the early 1970's he established a real estate brokerage and is still active with that business. He also served as President of the Kaufman-Van Zandt Board of Realtors and Director of the Texas Association of Realtors.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a veteran, Gen. Becker understands that better than most Americans. On behalf of the grateful citizens of the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to honor Maj. Gen. Becker today in the United States House of Representatives. It is because of his service, we are able to enjoy freedom, peace, prosperity, and the many other blessings that God has bestowed upon this great land, the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARJORIE S. ANTHONY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to a dear friend and colleague of mine, Marjorie S. Anthony of South Windsor, Connecticut, who passed away on March 27, 2006. Marge was wonderfully unique in the way she pursued politics and community service. She did it with enthusiasm and love, candor and spirit.

Marge was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. My heart goes out to her family, her loving husband of 48 years, Peter T. Anthony, Sr. Marjorie will be greatly missed by her four children and their spouses: Katherine Kennison and her husband, Ed, of South Windsor; Marybeth D'Onofrio and her husband, Tom, of Ellington; Patty Antonaras and her husband, Sam, of Ellington. Marjorie will also be deeply missed by her 12 grandchildren, Ashley Kennison, Shannon and Trevor Anthony, Matt, Rachel and Vinny Metacarpa, Katie, Tommy, and Christopher D'Onofrio, John, Brittany and Mikala Antonaras. Marjorie leaves behind five exceptional brothers, Charles J. Sullivan and sister-in-law, Maureen, of Riverton, NJ; Michael Sullivan and sister-in-law, Tina, of Atlanta, GA; Thomas Sullivan and sister-in-law, Carole, of South Bend, IN; Patrick Sullivan and Chris Domenick of Marlborough; and Kevin Sullivan of Hartford; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Thomas and Jane Anthony of Rocky Hill. Marjorie will also be deeply missed by her many nieces, nephews and cousins who were all a close knit family.

Marge led a tremendous life and was an active member of her community. Marge lived in South Windsor for 48 years of her life and graduated from Bulkeley High School. For 30 years of her life, Marjorie was a private business owner, Justice of the Peace, member of St. Francis of Assisi Church and Ladies Society, and State Central Connecticut Woman. Marge served as Past President of the South Windsor Democratic Women's Club, Past Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Democratic Town Committee, Past Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission, Chairperson of the South Windsor Committee for St. Patrick's Day Parade, Past Corresponding Secretary of the South Windsor Historical Society,

and Past President of the South Windsor Athletic Booster Club. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Hartford Transit District, Board of Directors of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, and an Advisory Board member for Rockville Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Marjorie S. Anthony. Marge will be missed by her family, friends and her community. She was a dear friend of mine and my family who join with her family in mourning her passing but rejoicing in her life.

TRIBUTE TO ELI SEGAL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American, Eli Segal, who passed away on February 20, 2006 at the age of 63.

Eli Segal was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1943. He graduated Brandeis University in 1964 and received a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1967.

Mr. Segal began a distinguished political career in 1968 when he joined Senator Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign. Though Senator McCarthy lost, Mr. Segal was not deterred and served in key positions in several Democratic presidential campaigns, culminating with President Clinton's 1992 campaign, which was Mr. Segal's first campaign victory.

Mr. Segal then served as Assistant to the President in the Clinton White House, and within months established the Corporation for National Service, better known now as AmeriCorps. Thanks to his skilled management, the once controversial program has become an acclaimed success, and 400,000 young Americans have been enrolled in the program and helped to improve their communities and their country. Mr. Segal also took an active interest in City Year, another service program he eventually chaired. At the request of Nelson Mandela, he helped launch City Year in South Africa.

In 1996, when President Clinton signed welfare reform into law, Mr. Segal took on the challenge of creating opportunities for former welfare recipients who were required to work. He began asking American companies to make commitments to hire former welfare recipients, and his "welfare-to-work partnership" grew from five companies to twenty thousand. As he did with AmeriCorps, Mr. Segal left a great legacy in his contribution to the success of welfare reform.

Mr. Segal is survived by his wife Phyllis, his son Jonathan and his daughter Mora, two grandchildren, and his brother Alan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an outstanding American and an extraordinary public servant, and extending our deepest sympathy to his family. He touched the lives of many Americans and changed our nation for the better.

HONORING ATHENS FIRST MAYOR

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. John Matthews McDonald, the first known Mayor of Athens, Texas. John Matthews McDonald (1827–1883) was born in North Carolina but came to Texas in 1848 and lived first at Larissa, Cherokee County and then Mound Prairie, Anderson County, where his brother Murdoch earlier settled. Two years later, he moved to the young town of Athens and became a teacher and a lawyer.

He also served as the town's first mayor. He wed Mary Ann Elizabeth Pinson (1842–1931) in 1858, and the couple had ten children. During the Civil War, McDonald fought with the Confederate Army as part of Hood's Texas Brigade.

Active in public service, he held the offices of Justice of the Peace, County Judge and State Representative. His pioneer leadership proved vital to the early development of this adopted home.

On behalf of the citizens of Athens and the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to honor John Matthews McDonald in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSE BOUZIANE NADER

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished constituent in my district, Rose Bouziane Nader of Winsted, Connecticut, whose incredible life has provided inspiration to all who have come in contact with her. Rose was a devoted mother, teacher and civic advocate, who passed away on January 20, 2006.

Rose Nader lived just 18 days short of her 100th birthday and led a life fulfilled by the inspiration she gave and the nurturing compassion she provided. Rose inspired America's foremost consumer advocate, her son Ralph Nader, and further inspired the rest of her children who are all dedicated to giving back to their community. The following are but glittering excerpts from the outpouring of people who spoke from their heart about this shining example for humanity.

"We have been brought together today by our mother, who was the light of our lives, the anchor, the compass and the vision. These are a few of her main qualities, qualities that we see in many good people. They represent the heights of human beings."—Ralph Nader.

"She was not a person of many words, but her content contained much memorable wisdom."—Claire Nader.

"On child-rearing formulas, Mom observed that, 'there is no recipe.' On supporting each other, it was 'operation cooperation.'"—Laura Nader.

"She was as fine an expression of the human spirit as I have ever met, and I say this from my heart."—Phil Donahue.

"I thought she was a remarkable person who lived a remarkable life, going literally from one century to another.

"She was strong, loving, hard-working and modest. All of the virtues were hers. I used to ponder how much she and her husband had seen in their lives for it was a great American story. They had come here in the Twenties with little more than their hopes and their capacity for hard work, and in just one generation they had seen their own children prosper—enriching what was around them and being enriched at the same time.

"What I will remember is her kindness to our family over the years, her sense of obligation to others, and a belief that citizenship demanded a daily commitment. And of course her modesty, in the midsixties, back when Life Magazine was still powerful, the editors put Ralph on the cover. My mother, thrilled by this, immediately called Rose to tell her.

"Yes," said Mrs. Nader, "that's nice. I must get out and get a copy." We all loved that, the 'a copy' reference." David Halberstam Journalist, Author, Historian.

It has been my experience that what makes this country great are those humble people amongst us who live day to day and perform unheralded deeds for their community. Rose was one of those people. Her life was a testimony of inspiration, humor and compassion, and the love and satisfaction that comes from giving of oneself.

How blessed her family is to have had such an influence, how fortunate the community that her works lives on. Epitomized by her world famous son, Ralph, and her daughters, Claire and Laura, who never forget their community and their mother's devotion.

President Kennedy was fond of saying that communities reveal a lot about themselves in the memorials they create and the individuals they honor. How fitting it is for the family to establish the Rose Nader Circle: For the Agitation of the Caring Mind. I know all Americans join in saluting Rose Nader. I personally want to be part of the planting of roses throughout Winsted. What a fitting tribute to an extraordinary lady. I am both humbled by her virtue and honored to place her name in the annals of the United States Congress, an institution that could learn much from this incredible American.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT RICHARD F. LITTO, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Richard Francis Litto, United States Marine Corps and a resident of South Boston, MA.

Upon graduation from South Boston High School in 1976, Sergeant Litto joined the Marine Corps Active Reserve Unit. In 1990, Richie was called to active duty in Operation Desert Shield and assigned to the Military Police Criminal Investigations Division. During his tenure in Desert Shield, Richie received several accolades for his exemplary work ethic. One in particular, The Meritorious Mast, was awarded to Richie for his outstanding service.

Richie's next tour came in 2005, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was again asked to serve his country. Richie was activated in June of that year as a member of the 6th Civil Affairs Group (CAG), 2nd Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps. During this tour Richie was on a 137 "outside the wire mission," where he and his fellow members of the CAG Division worked on the streets of Fallujah, Amiriyah, and Zaidon protecting the citizens of Iraq from enemy insurgents.

Due to his exemplary service Richie was given Gunnery Sergeant responsibilities with E5 status, which any Marine knows is an amazing accomplishment and honor. Throughout his service in the United States Marine Corps, Richie Litto has been decorated with numerous awards. He has been awarded the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, Combat Action Ribbon and the National Defense Ribbon on several occasions.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of counting Richie Litto among my dearest friends for most of my life. Recently, as part of a Congressional Delegation that visited Iraq and Afghanistan I had the opportunity to visit with Richie while he was stationed at Camp Mercury in Fallujah and tell him in person how proud we were of his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House of Representatives today to join with Richie's wonderful family, friends, and brothers and sisters in the Marines and thank him for a job well done and welcome him home. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Richie Litto's many accomplishments and all his future endeavors.

HONORING JERRY DEFEO

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Jerry DeFeo and his work with the National Exchange Club. Mr. DeFeo joined the Noon Exchange Club of Garland, Texas as a charter member in 1982 and went on to serve in numerous offices at the club, district and national levels, culminating with his term as President of the National Exchange Club this past year.

Jerry DeFeo has devoted his time, talent and energy promoting the Exchange Club and its mission: to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community service, youth activities, and its national project, the prevention of child abuse.

Mr. DeFeo is an accomplished member of the Garland Noon Exchange Club and has served the National Exchange Club Foundation board of trustees from 1987–88 and is a volunteer field representative (VFR). He has received multiple recognitions throughout his involvement, including the first ever VFR of the Year Award in 1997. He was also awarded the National Master Recruiter Award and he has recruited more than 350 members and built 15 Exchange Clubs.

Mr. DeFeo received a bachelor's degree in engineering management from the University of Texas at Arlington, and is the founder and

president of DeFeo & Co. Enterprises, which specializes in a variety of architecture and construction. Jerry and his wife Mary DeFeo reside in Garland and have four grown children and five grandchildren.

Still active in his community, DeFeo is serving his 12th year on Garland's Board of Adjustments, a zoning appeals board. He has also been involved with the Stars for Children Child Abuse Prevention Center, the Garland Chamber of Commerce, YMCA Indian Guides, and Crimestoppers and Scouting.

Over the course of his career, Jerry DeFeo has demonstrated a unique commitment to the Exchange Club and his community. Today I would like to recognize his outstanding service to his dedication to the people of Texas and the mission of the Exchange Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, On April 5, 2006. I missed Rollcall vote No. 90 on H.R. 1127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act to impose sanctions against individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, to support measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations, and to support peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan, and for other purposes. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted yes on the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD FULLY LIVE UP TO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COMMITMENTS AND END BOYCOTT ON ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Arab boycott against Israel is one of the worst vestiges of the Arab League's campaign to isolate and destroy Israel.

Originating shortly after Israel's founding in 1948, the embargo's objective was to squeeze the fledgling Jewish state out of existence AND punish its allies. Israel's astonishing economic growth despite these constraints ultimately dulled the impact. Enforcement also declined after Egypt and Jordan signed peace treaties with Israel. However, the boycott continues to be a shameless exercise in blackmail. Support for the policy is unfortunately still widely popular in most Arab nations.

Saudi Arabia, for its part, has been among the most vocal instigators rallying support for the boycott's continuation. Despite agreeing to provide Most Favored Nation status to all member states, including Israel, upon joining the WTO in November, Saudi Arabia continues to be a hub of boycott activity. In December, a Saudi official emphatically stated that the boycott would be maintained, and in

March, the Saudi government hosted a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference aimed at continuing the embargo.

Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia's inconsistent track record is somewhat common among our Arab trading partners. In October 2005, just one month after Bahrain signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States, the Bahraini parliament voted to reject its government's decision to lift the anti-Israel embargo.

Likewise, the United Arab Emirates, which is currently negotiating an FTA with the United States, has kept the policy in place. The issue recently got attention when it was revealed that a Dubai company seeking to take over operations in six U.S. ports complied with the boycott. It was revealed that the Department of Commerce's Office of Antiboycott Compliance had fined several U.S. companies in the last year for abiding by UAE's boycott rules.

Oman, which has an FTA now pending before Congress, opened a trade mission with Israel in 1996, but closed the office several years later in response to anti-Israel demonstrations.

The international trading system is designed not only to promote prosperity but to foster peaceful relations between nations. The United States has invested a great deal of time and effort in negotiating new trade pacts in the Middle East to build stronger ties between our countries and among our regional partners. But it is not acceptable to continue along this path if Israel is to be left out.

Israel is a valuable economic partner of the United States and a strategic ally. It would be a tactical error, a moral blunder, and a departure from our own anti-boycott laws, to continue expanding our trade ties with countries like Saudi Arabia that refuse to abide by their commitments on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure and take a firm stand to put an end to Saudi Arabia's duplicitous actions.

HONORING THE MARTINS MILL GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Martins Mill Lady Mustangs basketball team who recently won the Texas University Interscholastic League 1A Division State Championship. On Friday March 3, 2006 the Lady Mustangs competed at the University of Texas in Austin's Frank Erwin Center (UTAFEC) for the Girls Basketball State Championship.

I would like to recognize teammates Cara Chaney, Courtney Gregory, Rebecca Hensley, Jordan Barncastle, Hayley Butler, Taylor Daniel, Brittney Perkins, Alexis Popelar, Ashley Tarrant, Jennifer Tindle, Christa Williams, Lynzi Williams, and Kim Wilson as well as team managers Carlee Alsobrook, Kati Clark, Joanna Daniel, Ashlee Milner, and Emily Williams.

The outstanding team performance of the Martins Mill Lady Mustangs earned them the number one ranking in the state from start to finish this season. At the State Championship game in Austin the Lady Mustangs defeated

Elkhart Slocum 61–30 to claim the Class 1–A Division 1 Title in front of a crowd of 3,500 people.

Jordan Barncastle was named Most Valuable Player, and Offensive Most Valuable Player was awarded to Lynzi Williams and Christa Williams. Additionally, state team selections went to Taylor Daniels, Jennifer Tindle and Kim Wilson, and Ashley Tarrant. Cara Chaney, Brittney Perkins, and Hayley Butler also received honorable mention recognition. I would also like to honor Martins Mill Head Coach Doug Barncastle and Assistant Coach Don Tarrant, who were named Coaching Staff of the year.

As the congressional representative of the families, coaches, and supporters of the Martins Mill Lady Mustangs, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season.

RECOGNIZING BAY OF PIGS VETERANS ASSOCIATION 2506 ASSAULT BRIGADE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Bay of Pigs Veterans Association 2506 Assault Brigade. On April 15 of this year, this brave group of men will observe two monumental events. They will be commemorating the 45th anniversary of the invasion of the Bay of Pigs and the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of the captured members of the 2506 Brigade. The members of the 2506 Brigade came from all walks of life, ages, and backgrounds. The men range from doctors and farmers to students and priests. The oldest was a highly decorated 52-year-old World War II paratrooper and the youngest a 15-year old who lied about his age in order to be a part of the Bay of Pigs Assault Brigade. The 2506 Brigade trained for months with little supplies in preparing for this assault that they hoped would dethrone a cruel and heartless tyrant. These great patriots risked their lives in hopes of freeing their homeland from the tyrannical grip of a brutal dictator. My parents and I were fortunate enough to escape the oppression and persecution of Castro's regime when I was a young girl. Unfortunately, many have not been as lucky and still live in a country that does not recognize the human rights and personal freedoms that we cherish here in the United States. I applaud the efforts of all those who seek to eliminate the cruel dictatorship in Cuba and in its place instill a foundation for democracy and freedom. I along with the men in this distinguished group look forward to the day when Cuba is a free and sovereign nation. I pray that this day will soon come and that the Cuban people still living

under Castro's oppressive regime will be able to have the freedom and democracy that was so patriotically fought for by the members of the 2506 Brigade.

HONORING SISTER CATHERINE DUNN

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Catherine Dunn, President of Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa who will retire on June 30th 2006, after serving in this position for 22 years.

Sister Catherine came to Clarke in 1973 and started her service to Clarke and the Dubuque Community as a member of the education department faculty. In 1979 she became vice president of institutional advancement. On January 27th, 1984, she became Clarke's 14th president.

The first few months for the leader of any organization can be challenging, hectic, and perhaps chaotic at times. Sr. Catherine would face all of that and more, as her strength and fortitude were tested 111 days later, when on May 17th, 1984, fire destroyed one-third of the historic buildings on campus. In the spirit of Sister Mary Frances Clarke who founded the school in 1843, and propelled by students who hung banners proclaiming 'Clarke Lives,' Sr. Catherine oversaw an aggressive rebuilding project. Rising from the ashes were a new library, a chapel, music performance hall, administrative offices and a glassed atrium, which were dedicated in October of 1986. Most importantly, it showed the resilience of a woman who would not let devastation chart a negative destiny for the school or her presidency. Since then the school has had several other additions and expansions including a new sports and recreation complex, an activity center and increased student housing.

For most new presidents that would have been challenge enough, but Sr. Catherine's spirit reached far beyond 1550 Clarke Drive. She has served on the boards of numerous local, regional, and national education and civic organizations. She has served on the executive committee of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and chaired the organization's tax policy committee. In 1989, she was appointed to the Iowa Transportation Commission, making history in 1994 when she was named chair of the commission. She was the first woman to hold the position in the 81-year history of the commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Clarke College President Sr. Catherine Dunn. The many lives she has touched will never be known, but that work, through others, will live

on. We celebrate, we honor and we will remember Clarke College's 14th president.

HONORING THE VIENNA COMMUNITY CENTER'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of the Vienna Community Center located in Fairfax County, Virginia.

For 40 years, the Vienna Community Center has served as the main location for the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department. Like all aspects of the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, the Vienna Community Center enjoys a rich history of providing quality programs and facilities to the town's citizenry.

Even before the Community Center's construction, it was bringing the Town of Vienna together as a neighborhood. In 1946, the Vienna Lions Club provided the initial donation for the Community Center. In 1964, the opening night performance of the Vienna Theater served as a benefit event kicking off the final leg of the fund raising drive to build the Town's new Community Center. Tickets for the event were available from sponsoring organizations, which included the First National Bank and the Vienna Trust Co. The fund raising goal required to build the Community Center was completed through these community-backed ticket sales as well as direct donations from businesses, organizations, and community residents. Construction of the center began shortly thereafter.

The Community Center opened its doors on Sunday, April 17, 1966. The dedication ceremonies, organized by the Vienna Woman's Club, brought together a variety of area clubs and organizations.

Since those opening ceremonies, The Vienna Community Center has provided facilities for many events serving people of all ages such as fashion shows, bazaars, health fairs, plays, and antique exhibits.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Vienna Community Center for 40 years of dedicated service to its community. The activities, classes, programs, camps and trips, which the Vienna Community Center facilitates, enhance the town's sense of community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Vienna Community Center's past accomplishments and in wishing the Center continued success in the many years to come.